Forest Insect & Disease Management

Survey Report

S-13-76

June 1976

Aspen Defoliation - 1976

Ottawa National Forest, Michigan

Arthur R. Hastings, Entomologist

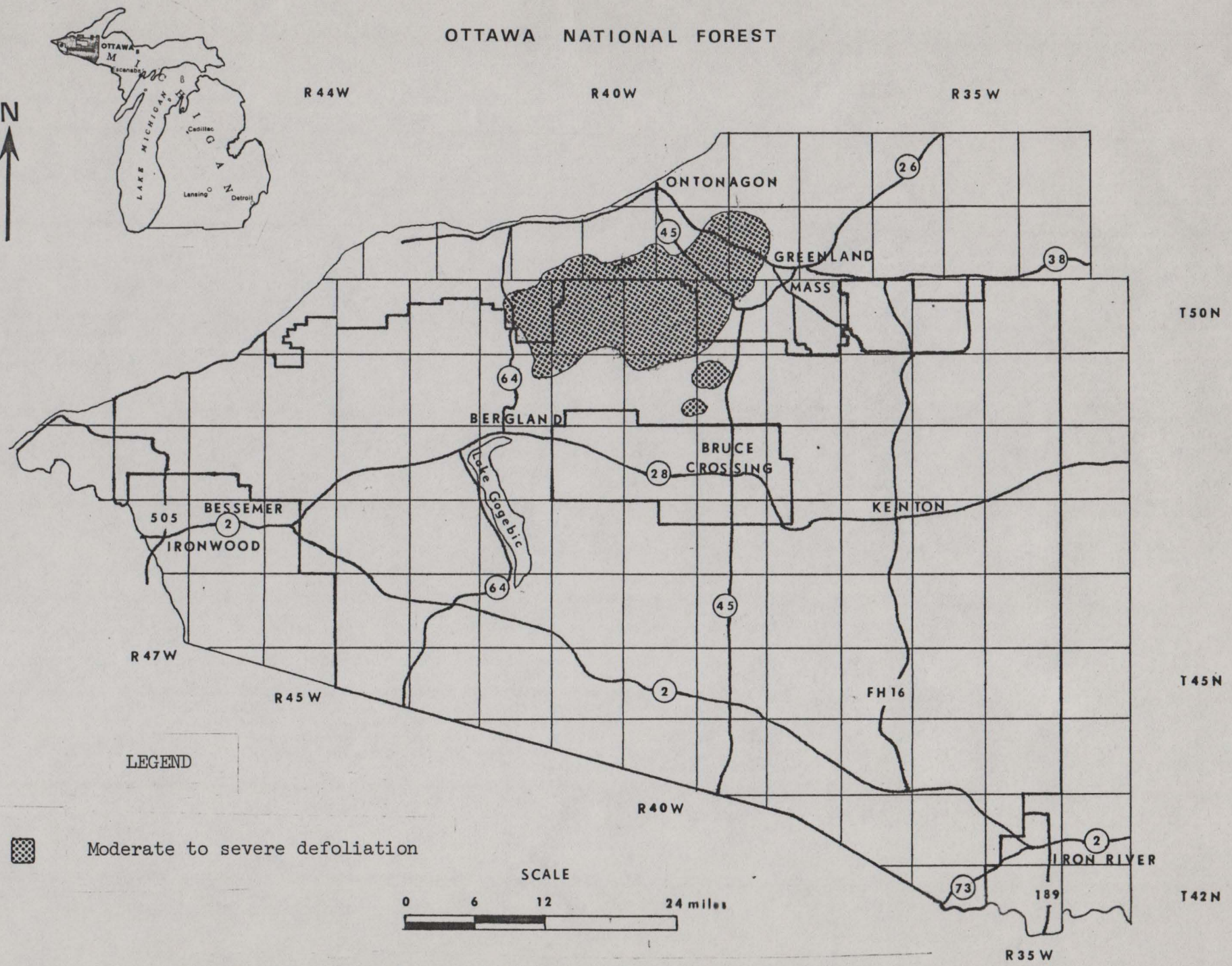
St. Paul Field Office

An aerial survey for forest tent caterpillar, Malacosoma disstria Hbn. was conducted with the North Central Forest Experiment Station on June 10. The purpose was to delineate areas of defoliation on the Ottawa National Forest and vicinity.

Moderate-severe defoliation (50% + of crown defoliation) was sketch-mapped on an estimated 115,000 gross acres. Ground checking revealed forest tent caterpillar to be the primary culprit. Large numbers of a striped fly, Sarcophaga aldrichi, a forest tent caterpillar pupal parasite, were observed in the moderate-severe defoliation areas. Their presence will effect the number of egg masses produced this summer and may result in reduced defoliation for 1977.

Light defoliation (less than 50%) was observed around the periphery of the severely affected area and east of Bruce Crossing to Kenton, north of Michigan Route 28. In these areas the large aspen tortrix and an unidentified leafroller were causing most of the defoliation.

NORTHEASTERN AREA, STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY
USDA FOREST SERVICE, UPPER DARBY, PA 19082



Forest tent caterpillar defoliation on the Ottawa National Forest and adjacent lands, Michigan, 1976.